From:	Salemi, Charles (DPH) [/O=COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS/OU=MASSMAIL-01/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=CHARLES.SALEMI]
Sent:	6/15/2011 2:57:05 PM
To:	Nassif, Julianne (DPH) [/O=COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS/OU=MassMail-01/cn=Recipients/cn=Julianne.Nassif]
CC:	O'Brien, Elisabeth (DPH) [/O=COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS/OU=MassMail-01/cn=Recipients/cn=Elisabeth.O'Brien]
Subject:	FW: Misplaced sample

Hi Julie, Betsy sent me this email about a misplaced sample. While this doesn't happen often, it can have serious consequences when it does. As we move to accreditation, I think it's imperative that we fix this loophole in our sampling handling procedure. I recommend that chemists returning samples to the evidence office, when completed, have the samples verified and signed for by a member of the Evidence Office. While this may slow things down somewhat, it would go along with having supervisors reviewing analytical data for each case. I won't be in Friday, but it's something you may want to discuss at the Lab meeting Friday. CBS

From: O'Brien, Elisabeth (DPH)
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2011 3:29 PM
To: Salemi, Charles (DPH)
Subject: Misplaced sample

Chuck,

Last week Boston Police returned a sample ▮▮▮▮▮▮ to us that was found in one of their evidence envelopes. It was not a Boston sample but rather belonged to North Attleboro. Our records indicated that this had been scanned out to North Attleboro back in May (apparently without the sample in the envelope). North Attleboro has never called looking for their sample probably because Det. Elliot never looked in the envelope either.

Fortunately no harm has been done but it could have been much worse. It serves as a reminder that one of our biggest gaps in the chain of custody here in the drug lab is when samples are returned to the evidence office. We should revisit the topic of checking the envelopes and maintaining the integrity of our chain of custody. If North Attleboro had called we would have had no idea where that sample was.....and I don't want to consider the fingerpointing that could have occurred.

ELO